



City of Seattle

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Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

**Department of Design, Construction and Land Use**

D. M. Sugimura, Director

**CITY OF SEATTLE  
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND LAND USE**

**Application Number:** 2302732

**Applicant Name:** Cingular Wireless

**Address of Proposal:** 840 Northeast 125<sup>th</sup> Street

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION**

Master Use Permit for installation of a minor communication utility (Cingular Wireless) consisting of five (5) panel antennas (3-sector) on the roof of an existing four-story residential building. Establish use as a minor communication utility.

The following approval is required:

SEPA - Environmental determination - (SMC Chapter 25.05)

**SEPA DETERMINATION:** ☐ Exempt ☒ DNS ☐ MDNS ☐ EIS

☐ DNS with conditions

☐ DNS involving non exempt grading or demolition or  
involving another agency with jurisdiction.

**BACKGROUND DATA**

**Site and Vicinity Description**

The site is located on a wedge of land at the northwest intersection of NE 125<sup>th</sup> Street and Roosevelt Avenue NE where the orientation of Roosevelt Ave. shifts 45 degrees toward 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. A split-level, four story, 48 unit residential building occupies the site with a

partially below grade garage. Its zone, Neighborhood Commercial Two (NC2-40) with a forty foot height limit, extends both north and south of the site. Adjacent property to the east is zoned Single Family 7200 (SF7200).

### Proposal

The proposal is for a new minor communications utility to be located on the roof of a four-story building located on NE 125<sup>th</sup> Street. The new site will support five, three sector antennas to be mounted on the north and south portions of the upper roof. The associated radio equipment will be located in a former laundry room inside the building. The highest antennas will extend approximately 15 feet above the existing roof. The top of the antennas will be approximately 55 feet above the ground. The facility will consist of shrouded rooftop antennas screened to resemble vent stacks. The cylinders containing the antennas will be painted to match the façade of the structure.

### Public Comments

No comment letters were received during the public comment period which ended June 18, 2003.

### **ANALYSIS - SEPA**

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was made in the environmental checklist dated May 9, 2003. Information in the checklist was supplemented by documentation from Lei Wang, a professional engineer, who certified that the proposed installation will comply with City regulations (SMC 25.10) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) guidelines regarding radio frequency (RF) radiation emissions. This information and the experience of the lead agency with the review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665) states, in part, "*where City regulations have been adopted to address an environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation*" subject to some limitations. Thus, the mitigation that may be required pursuant to SEPA authority is limited.

### Short - Term Impacts

The following temporary or construction-related impacts are expected: decreased air quality due to suspended particulates from building activities and hydrocarbon emissions from construction vehicles and equipment, increased traffic and demand for parking from construction equipment and personnel, increased noise, and consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources. Due to the temporary nature and extremely limited scope of these adverse impacts, they are not considered significant or warranting of mitigation pursuant to SMC 25.05.794.

### Long - Term Impacts

Long-term or use-related impacts are also anticipated as a result of approval of this proposal, namely increases in demand for energy, visual impacts, increased generation of radio frequency radiation related to the new antennas, and traffic and parking impacts.

The panel antennas will be visible from off site. However, this visibility will be somewhat limited due to the fact that the cylinders containing the antennas will be painted the same color as the building. With respect to RF Radiation, the contributions from all antennas will be well below the Federal Communication Commission exposure limits as well as the City of Seattle RF Radiation standards. The increase in long-term energy use is not considered to be significant. With respect to traffic and parking impacts, the additional traffic and parking demand is projected to be only 1 trip per month. While it is possible that this estimate could be exceeded, more traffic or parking impact has not been observed in other similar locations in the city. No other long-term impacts are considered significant or of sufficient adversity to warrant mitigation.

### DECISION - SEPA

The responsible official on behalf of the lead agency made this decision after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the department. This constitutes the Threshold Determination and form. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21.C), including the requirement to inform the public of agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

[X] Determination of Non-Significance. This proposal has been determined to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C).

[ ] Determination of Significance. This proposal has or may have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C).

### CONDITONS - SEPA

None.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature on file) Date: July 31, 2003  
Bruce P. Rips, Land Use Planner  
Department of Design, Construction and Land Use

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